

SSUDAC Meeting Summary

February 19th, 2015

Members Present: Brian Abramson, Diana Brown, Dan Figueroa, Don Hague, Sheldon Johnson, Mel Tull

Members Absent: Mussie Betre, Carmen Camacho, Curtis Johnson, United Therapeutics, Suzy Zusy

Call to Order and Introductions:

- Mr. Don Hague, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.
- The committee unanimously voted to approve the January 2015 meeting minutes for the record.

Reports:

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Montgomery County Police 3rd Precinct

- The final report on 2014 crime trends for the downtown Silver Spring area will be released soon.
- Overall, robberies in the area are down from January, from 9 incidents to 5. January robberies were primarily concentrated in the Sligo Ave. area.
- Thefts from automobiles in County parking lots & parking garages continue to be an issue.
- The police department has been considering a series of Public Service Announcement ads directed at reminding drivers to remove valuables from plain sight. These would be placed in the empty frames in County parking garages.

Silver Spring Urban District Report

Richard Bingham, Chief of Operations, Silver Spring Urban District

- Mr. Bingham gave an overview of the Urban District's current personnel, budget and general operational logistics. These included information regarding the current FY14 budget, day-to-day operational practices and situational events & occurrences.
- Mr. Bingham discussed initiatives to gain operational feedback from staff as well as plans to review and update outdated staff job descriptions.

Dialogue Regarding PLD Functions, Funding, and Relationship to the Urban District

Rick Siebert, Parking Lot District Director

- Mr. Rick Siebert gave the committee an overview of the assorted Parking Lot District funding sources that supply the Silver Spring Urban District's budget.
- The Silver Spring PLD is separate from the County's General Fund, and is comprised of three revenue streams - the PLD tax, fees from parking meters and parking permits, as well as parking tickets.
- The nine garages in Silver Spring, as well as the surface/lot parking areas and street meters all feed in to the Parking Lot District's pool of funds.
- The PLD also makes various fund transfers to other County agencies, including Ride On and area Transportation Management Districts.
- The PLD funds approximately 70% of the Silver Spring Urban District's operating budget.

Dialogue with 5th District Council Member Tom Hucker

Tom Hucker, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council 5th District

- Mr. Hucker introduced himself to the committee and provided a brief background of his work experience and public service history.
- Committee members asked a number of questions relating to the SSUD's ongoing issues with the MD State Highway administration, focusing on the 16th St. Circle and its needed changes and updated signalization.
- Mr. Hucker also discussed concerns relating to the Silver Spring Urban District budget and concerns over accessing Parking Lot District funds in light of the County's mandatory 3% budget cut for all departments.

Regional Area Director's Report

Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- Mr. Rodriguez gave his report and discussed the range of new restaurants that have recently opened in the area, as well as ones slated to open in the coming months.
- The Purple Line project is the number one transit priority for the County Executive and County Council.
- The Independent Transit Authority proposal has been withdrawn by the County Executive. Additional research will be needed to address County Transit infrastructure needs, including potential rapid transit systems.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.